Funds allocated for NHs in Andhra Pradesh

1148. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the works on the stretches of the sanctioned National Highways falling in the various districts of Andhra Pradesh are likely to commence and would be completed;

(b) whether the funds have since been allocated for the said projects;

(c) if so, the quantum thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (d) For stretches under National Highways Development Project (NHDP), seven projects costing Rs. 2373.00 crore on National Highway No. 5 and 7 falling in various districts of Andhra Pradesh are presently in progress and are expected to be completed by April, 2009. For NHDP, allocation is made programme-wise and not contract/project-wise and funds during the year are made available as per requirement of the project.

In addition, on non-NHDP stretches, thirty three works sanctioned on various stretches of National Highways falling in various districts of Andhra Pradesh are in progress and are expected to be completed by March, 2008 subject to availability of funds. Further, thirteen works already sanctioned are in process of award. An allocation of Rs. 87.35 crore has been made for the development of National Highway works in the State of Andhra Pradesh during 2006-07 including these projects.

Survey of Kakinada Shipyard

1149. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the initial survey of the proposed shipyard at Kakinada on the Eastern side of Andhra Pradesh is over;

(b) if so, the results of the initial survey;

(c) the estimated expenditure required for setting up of shipyard at Kakinada; and

(d) the details of companies that have come forward for setting up shipyard at Kakinada?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) There is a proposal under the National Maritime Development Programme for setting up of two international size shipyards, one on the East Coast and the other on the West Coast. A Committee set up under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Indian Ports Association to identify locations and suggest measures to facilitate setting up of two international size shipyards has submitted its report. Kakinada has been identified as one of the sites for setting up of a shipyard on the East Coast. As per the Committee's report M/s Larsen & Toubro Ltd. has proposed to make investments in the shipyard at Kakinada. Committee's report does not include the amount of investment proposed by M/s Larsen & Toubro Ltd. The report of the Committee is under examination.

Disaster Management Support System

1150. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Space has evolved a space based Disaster Management Support System;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this system had been put to use during the recent natural disasters in the country; and

(d) if so, the extent of success achieved as a result of it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Department of Space has evolved a Disaster Management Support Programme utilizing the capabilities of space technology. The programme enables providing space-enabled products and services towards supporting disaster management efforts in the country. These services mainly in terms of value added products are generated from satellite, aerial and other collateral information, and emergency communication support. The information provided is mainly in the form of maps dynamically depicting the disaster impact, damages, and also vulnerability. National Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad, under Department of Space is the nodal agency to disseminate space inputs for disaster management to the end users at Centre and State levels.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The disaster mangement support programme has responded comprehensively to the major natural disasters the country has faced - including the 26th December, 2004 Tsunami, monitoring of artificial lake in Sutlej basin that caused flash flood threat in parts of Himachal Pradesh, the recurrent floods, droughts, landslides, forest fires and earthquakes in different parts of the country. Based on these inputs,